

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 were allowed.

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. These claims have been amended in such a way as to overcome the rejection.

Amended claim 4, in particular, now defines the invention (as do allowed claims 1-3) in terms of circuit "provisioning." Amended claim 4, in particular now calls for, at lines 4-5, "causing said network to provision two or more circuit connections having respective different data rates." Other recitations in the claim have been amended to be consistent with the foregoing.

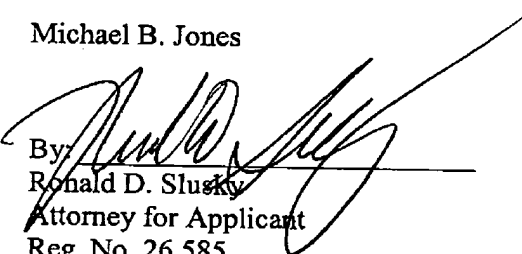
Amended claim 5 now recites that an illustrative way for carrying out the above-cited "causing the network to provision..." comprises "causing said network to drop a first virtual circuit connection having a first bandwidth and to create a second virtual circuit connection having a second bandwidth." The language of claim 5 now more closely tracks language of the specification. See, for example, p. 6, ¶ 0019.

Claim 6 has been amended to conform its language to that of its parent claim 5, as amended.

Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully,

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